

# No summer vacation for work on roads

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The Arizona Republic

May. 29, 2007 04:11 PM

If you thought getting out of town for Memorial Day weekend was crazy, wait for the rest of the summer.

Fleeing the Valley for cooler climates by car could be vexing.

The Arizona Department of Transportation gave motorists a break from highway closures and detours over the three-day memorial weekend, with one exception near Camp Verde.

But ADOT can't stop working all summer, spokesman Doug Nintzel said.

"We don't want people to panic about driving on the freeways and thinking that everything is going to be shut down. We have lots of experience with shutdowns, and the emphasis will be on nighttime work," he said.

But even then, it won't be easy heading to northern Arizona's high country or other parts outside of the Valley.

"It's going to be busier than usual because we have a number of projects getting under way."

One of the first construction projects is bridge work at Jomax Road and Dixileta Drive along Interstate 17.

The \$42 million project involves building four on- and off-ramps connecting the freeway to Jomax and Dixileta. Work will begin in June.

Crews also will break ground this summer on a \$19.6 million project to reconstruct I-17 traffic interchange at Carefree Highway, again affecting north Valley travel.

Drivers should plan their trip by going to [www.az511.gov](http://www.az511.gov) or calling 511 toll free to hear restrictions and closures.